

To: Fritz, Matthew[Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov]
From: Smith, Roxanne
Sent: Fri 8/14/2015 5:09:26 PM
Subject: RE: Animas Release and Funding

Thanks, Matt!

Roxanne Smith

Principal Deputy Associate Administrator

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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From: Fritz, Matthew
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 1:08 PM
To: Smith, Roxanne
Subject: FW: Animas Release and Funding

FYI

From: Richardson, RobinH
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 12:53 PM
To: Fritz, Matthew; Bloom, David
Subject: RE: Animas Release and Funding

Hi Matt –

In David's absence, I thought I'd provide a quick update on OCFO's efforts around managing and tracking the resources for the response. The OCFO leadership team held a coordination meeting this morning to ensure we have the people and mechanisms in place and are available to assist in whatever capacity is required. Many of the team are already engaged and helping. We're drawing on many of the lessons learned responding to the Deepwater Horizon Oil spill and Katrina understanding that this event is different given EPA is taking responsibility.

We've reached out to OSWER to understand the resource needs. We're also working with OGC on the claims submission and payment processes to be prepared to track and make the appropriate payments. And, we're closely monitoring the Agency's available funds and cash flow as we close out FY 2015 and enter FY 2016.

In coordination with OSWER/OEM, Region 8, and OGC a Superfund charge code has been established. We are also checking on past decisions related to how other offices were instructed to charge during a response to inform how we should handle our current circumstances. We are working quickly to get guidance out realizing, of course, that time is of the essence.

We're meeting again later this afternoon and I can provide another update if that would be helpful. If you have any further questions, please let us know.

Best, Robin

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From: Fritz, Matthew
Sent: Friday, August 14, 2015 8:31 AM
To: Bloom, David; Richardson, RobinH
Subject: Animas Release and Funding

Good morning David,

I hope you had a relaxing time away from the office.

We have a bit of excitement over the past week with a release that occurred about 10 days ago in Colorado at an abandoned mine.

You have probably seen the news.

Based on all accounts that I have seen, we are taking responsibility for the event that triggered the release. We have started the process to examine what transpired at the site. While work continues associated with the actual response and the assessment, I want to put high on your radar the costs associated with this effort.

For awareness purposes, we have stood up a “claims” process to help individuals or entities that may have been impacted by the release and OGC has been leading that effort.

In this instance, the costs I am concerned about are actually our expenses. Unlike almost all other incidents, we are not dealing with a responsible party since we have claimed responsibility. I understand that the regional Superfund programs can look to some year-end money to help with costs associated with this response and for other needs that arise before the close of the fiscal year. That aspect may be straight-forward. I am not sure how other offices, in support of the response, are going to cover their costs or what they are going to “charge” their costs to.

So, I wanted to put this on your radar and your thoughts and guidance would be incredibly helpful.

Thanks.